

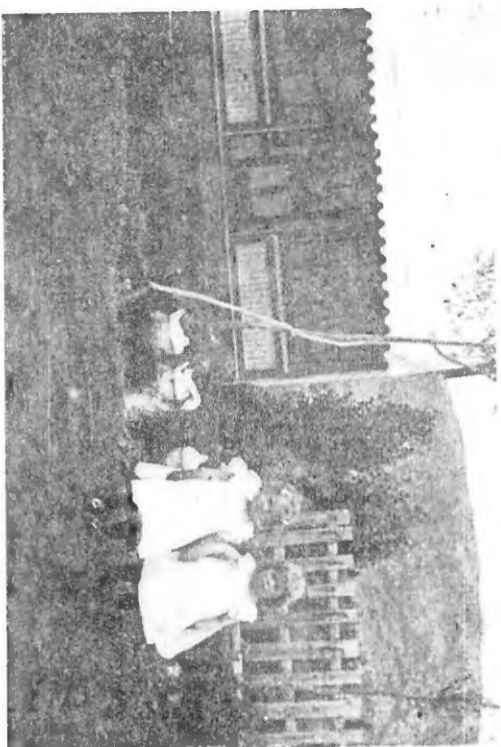
bed, and a chair served as a rude counter for tying up the articles.<sup>7</sup>

The cabin that housed his business may have been crude, but the mind that directed the trade was vigorous and keen. As business increased he bought property on Main Street. When this seemed inadequate he rented the large rock store which had previously housed Judge Carter's business. He enlarged again and again. The purchase of more property, erection of buildings, and further enlargement all prefaced the establishment of the Heber Mercantile Company in 1905 with a capital stock of fifteen thousand dollars.<sup>8</sup>

### THE COOPERATIVES

The cooperative mercantile movement in Utah, which affected the Wasatch County business scene, really began

*This  
Wasatch Wave, December 21, 1906.*

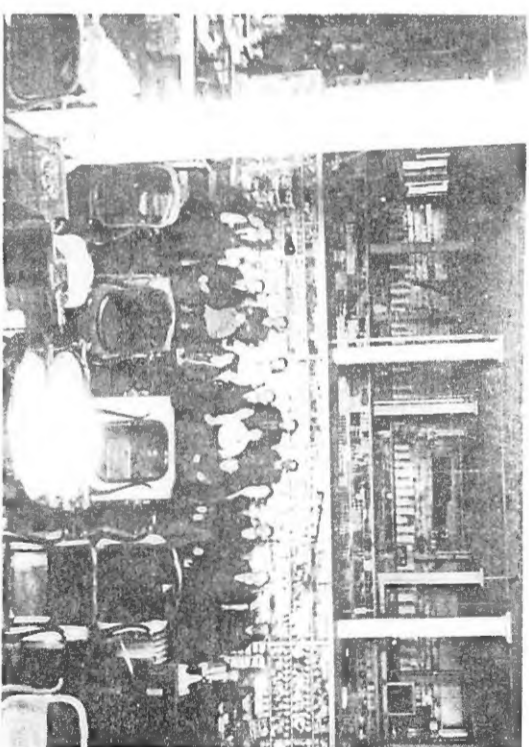


Daybell Millinery in Charleston

in Salt Lake City in 1868. High prices and less prosperous times prompted Brigham Young and prominent Mormon leaders to introduce the cooperatives in an attempt to secure social and economic justice.<sup>9</sup> As it was conceived, the plan called for any group of Church members to pool their capital to form a corporation. This corporation then issued shares of stock in a store, and those who held the shares divided the profits on the basis of the amount of stock each held.

In Wasatch County the motives for adopting the cooperative plan seemed to be a desire to organize sufficient capital for the beginning of business and its expan-

<sup>9</sup>Neff, *op. cit.*, p. 830.



Heber Mercantile

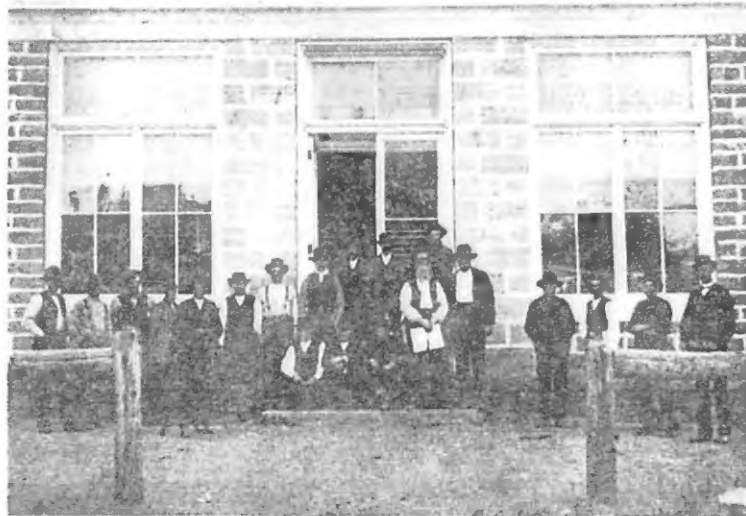
Clerks of Heber Mercantile: E. J. Duke, Robert Duke, A. Y. Duke, Cleone Cord, Nymphus Mordock, Cora Miller, Jay Jensen, Jr., Edward McMullin, George Pyper, Lacy B. Duke, Jos. A. Rassband, manager, and Jos. E. D. Tomlinson.



sion rather than a desire to alleviate hardship caused by exorbitant prices. Thus it was that Abram Hatch and John W. Witt, both merchants at the beginning of the cooperative period, pooled their stock into a larger store and called it the Heber Co-op. This business was carried on in the south room of President Hatch's home on Main Street.

Both Midway and Charleston were scenes of similar ventures. In Midway the co-op was directed by David Van Wagonen and in Charleston by Nymphas C. Murdock.

The story of the Charleston Co-op is an interesting



A. Hatch & Co.

Front of A Hatch & Co.; Standing: James McNaughton, John Bell, James Murdock, Chas. Shelton, William Brett, Thomas Clothworthy, Heber Rasband, Barney Riley, Ludwig Anderson, Joseph Hatch, Sr., Joseph Hatch, Jr., John Witt, Isaac (Babe) Cummings, Bishop Henry Clegg, Alex Fortie, Thomas Watson, Dr. Glanville. Sitting: Heber Crook, Brigham Witt, James Rasband.

and, in some details, romantic illustration of this type of mercantile trade. The store began in a large drygoods box in Nymphas C. Murdock's kitchen.<sup>10</sup> Murdock, one of the early valley settlers, and the first bishop of Charleston Ward, settled on a ranch about one and one-half miles south of the present Charleston townsite. In 1873, he and five or six neighbors formed a partnership to establish a merchandise store. The amount originally subscribed was fifty dollars' worth of grain which had to be sold before the goods with which to stock the store were purchased.<sup>11</sup> The business was carried on in the kitchen of the bishop's ranch for twelve years until 1885 when a site in the central part of Charleston was selected and here the store was built. In 1890 the Charleston Co-op was incorporated with a capital stock of ten thousand dollars divided into two thousand shares of five dollars each.

In the new locality the Charleston Co-op grew into a county institution. A creamery and lumber mill were established in connection with it. Business headquarters for the milling and creamery business were at the store, and this meant that those who logged lumber and sold milk ran accounts at the Co-op.<sup>12</sup> Even school was held in the upstairs room by Mrs. Ellen Baker, who had come from American Fork.

The store's large stock of merchandise included hardware; paint and oil; glass; wallpaper; furniture, machinery; stocks of shoes for men, women, and children; dry goods and notions; ladies' and children's dresses; men's overalls and work shirts; drugs; groceries and household goods.<sup>13</sup> In time trade grew so large that three additional sections were added to the original building.

<sup>10</sup>Edith North, "Business in Charleston," MSS, (Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Historical Collection, Heber City, 1952), p. 1.

<sup>11</sup>*Wasatch Wave*, December 21, 1906, p. 12.

<sup>12</sup>James Ritchie, "Charleston," MSS, (Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Historical Collection, Heber City, 1952), p. 1.

<sup>13</sup>North, *op. cit.*, p. 2.



With the advent of the railroad the Charleston Co-op weighed and shipped sugar beets to the Lehi sugar factory and hay to the Utah market. The store itself was always a ready market for the farmer's other produce such as grain, butter, and eggs.

A good deal of personal history connected with the store could even be found on the back of the sliding door of one of the large showcases. Here were carved the names dates, and romances of the clerks.

The Co-op was later sold to George W. Daybell and Sons and eventually to William H. North of Charleston. When the Deer Creek Reservoir was built many of the Charleston families had to give up their lands and homes. The railroad and highway were moved from the town and the Charleston Co-op became only a memory.

The 1870's saw the successful development of both cooperative and individual merchandising businesses. In addition to those already described many others later opened stores. These included the Lindsay Brothers, William McMillin and Henry Alexander, the Rasband Brothers, Duncan's Variety Store, F. O. Buell, Turner and Sons, Roger's Notions and Varieties, and Clegg and Son's. In 1889 the first drug store opened in Heber under the management of a Mr. Bridge.<sup>11</sup>

Advertisements in the *Wasatch Wave* in 1889 offer a rather nostalgic picture of business at the close of the period covered by this history. A visitor to the county, possibly a salesman (then called a drummer), could come in on the Heber and Park City Stage Line. The stage carried both freight and passengers and left Heber daily at 8:00 a.m. and Park City at 3:00 p.m. Good accommodations could be had at either the Duncan House or the Heber House, run by Mrs. Henry McMullin. Lunch at William Hannah's Heber City Bakery would be a staggering five to ten cents. A cloth salesman might call on

<sup>11</sup>*Wasatch Wave*, December 14, 1889.

Sadie Zitting, a professional dressmaker, or V. R. Berglin, the tailor who was offering suits made to order from eight dollars up. A little liquid refreshment could be had at either the Heber or Wasatch Saloons, which also offered pure alcohol for medicinal purposes. Traveling around the towns of the county one could find one or more general stores, blacksmith shops, or meat markets that by now had become permanently established.

Pioneer trades shared importance with merchandising in the successful establishment of the Wasatch Communities. Among the settlers were many skilled artisans who upon arrival in Utah were delegated by the Church to duties in the new towns and cities in much the same manner as were church officials.

Blacksmithing was a trade of importance and long duration. Blacksmiths shod the horses and oxen, made yokes for the teams, and repaired wagons and farm implements. In Wasatch John Davison was the first blacksmith. His shop in the Fort in Heber was equipped with tools which he himself had made from scrap iron.<sup>12</sup>

Other trades familiar to the pioneer scene were harness makers, tanners, weavers, dressmakers, cobblers, and fur trappers. Many women engaged in business also, often making and selling hats woven from the local straw or baking or cooking.

<sup>12</sup>Ethyl Johnson, "Blacksmithing in Wasatch County," MSS, (Daughters of Utah Pioneers Historical Collection, Heber City, 1952), p. 1.